



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Useful, Timely, Florida-Specific Monitoring Products. . . *from a Council of your Peers*

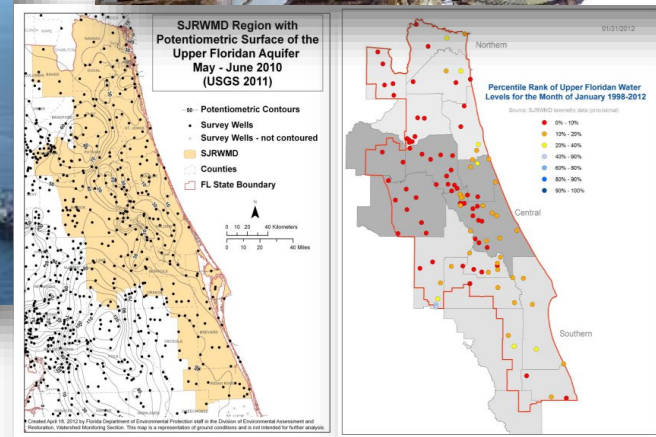
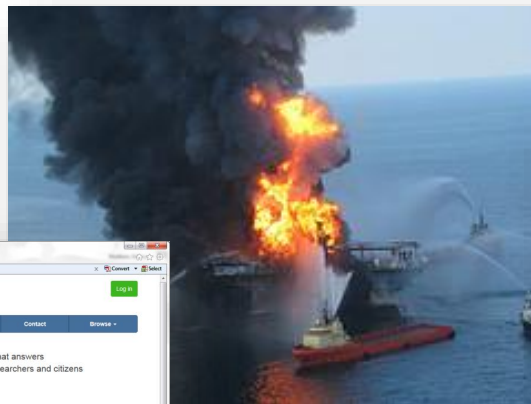
**National Water Quality Monitoring Council Conference
Session L8, May 5, 2016**





Products

- Address big-ticket issues
- Timely
- Florida-specific





What Is the Council?

Cooperation – Coordination – Leadership – Environmental Stewardship

- Authority
- Background
- Goals
- Composition
- Projects and products





What Is the Council?



“ . . .the mission of the Florida Water Resources Monitoring Council is to protect, preserve, manage, and restore water resources in the state of Florida by coordinating water resource monitoring and by sharing information . . . ”

---FWRMC Vision statement, 2014



Authority & Early Support

- **Statutory authority**
 - Chap. 373.026 (2) and (3), F. S.
- **Formed with support from the NWQMC**
- **The first iteration of the Council (2006-2008)**

consisted of state agencies, WMDs, and one local government representative. Its products:

 1. Action Plan
 2. Recommendations for Council structure



Council Then & Now

- Early Objectives:

- Coordinate and integrate freshwater and coastal monitoring;
- Coordinate Florida's state monitoring with local and federal monitoring programs;
- Develop water resource metadata (IDM) → Catalog of Florida Monitoring Programs;
- Serve as forum for STORET replacement (WIN).

- Current Objectives

- Focus on themes such as:
 - Continuous monitoring;
 - Restoration;
 - New monitoring technologies;
 - Assemble & interpret existing Florida datasets to provide a decades-long comprehensive study.





Council 2011 - Present

Expanded Membership (now 21 voting members):

- 4 federal agencies (EPA, USGS, NOAA, USACE ; *potentially USFWS, NPS*);
- 5 WMDs, 4 state agencies (DEP, FWC, DOH, DACS);
- Representative -- Florida Lakes Management Society (FLMS);
- Increased FLERA representation – 1 member from each region (5);
- Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA);
- UF/IFAS: Lakewatch.

Structure:

- DEP manages meetings and supports Council liaison;
- Leader is ex-officio; cannot vote.



What We Do

- **Create opportunities to:**

- Leverage existing resources to report water resource conditions on regional or statewide scales;
- Learn best practices from each other;
- Conduct gap analyses to target resources;
- Provide network/conduit for new studies or metrics.

- **Provide forum** to share issues, develop pertinent products and strategies to create a monitoring network of networks





What We Avoid

- Statewide efforts to compel monitoring entities to use same SOPs, equipment, laboratories, or data quality objectives (DQOs);



- Endless meetings/teleconferences/webinars with no outcomes and no products.



Council Meeting Schedule, Topics

- Meet quarterly, either in person or via teleconference;
- Open, public meetings announced in Florida Administrative Register;



- Share information on themes identified by Council;
- Project updates from workgroups;
- All can be found on FWRMC website, and in Council *Briefing Book* (www.dep.state.fl.us/water/monitoring/ouncil/docs/Briefing_Book_2015.pdf)



Current Council Projects

- Groundwater Salinity Network (SalNet);
- Catalog of Florida Monitoring Programs;
- Adverse events long-term monitoring plan & interactive map;
- Continuous monitoring.



Groundwater Salinity Network (SalNet)

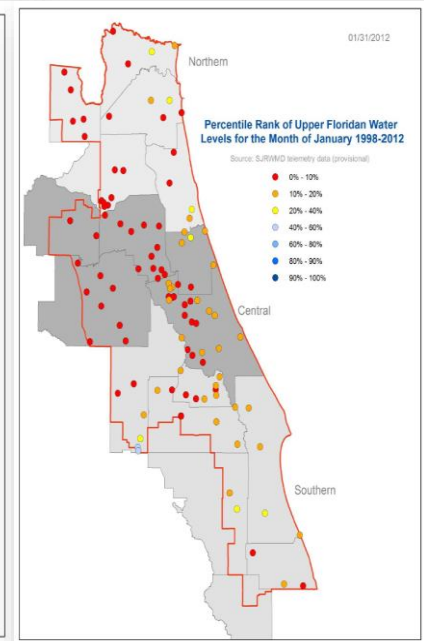
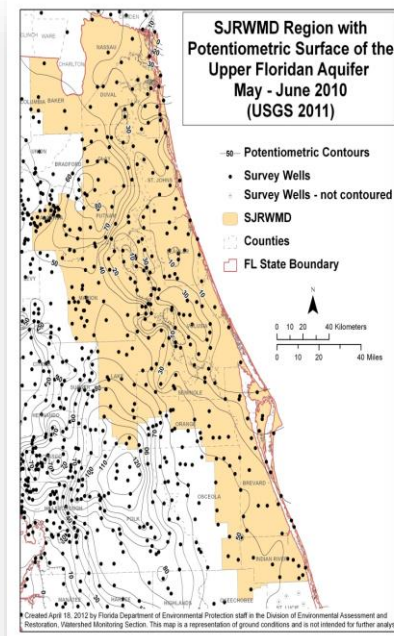
USGS, WMDs, DEP, and counties participate

Groundwater Level Index (GWL)

- Why - Because lowered GWL increases potential for encroachment (horizon. & vertical);
- Easy to produce & to understand.

Groundwater Quality Index

- In beginning stages;
- More complex than GWL Index.





Catalog of Florida Monitoring Programs



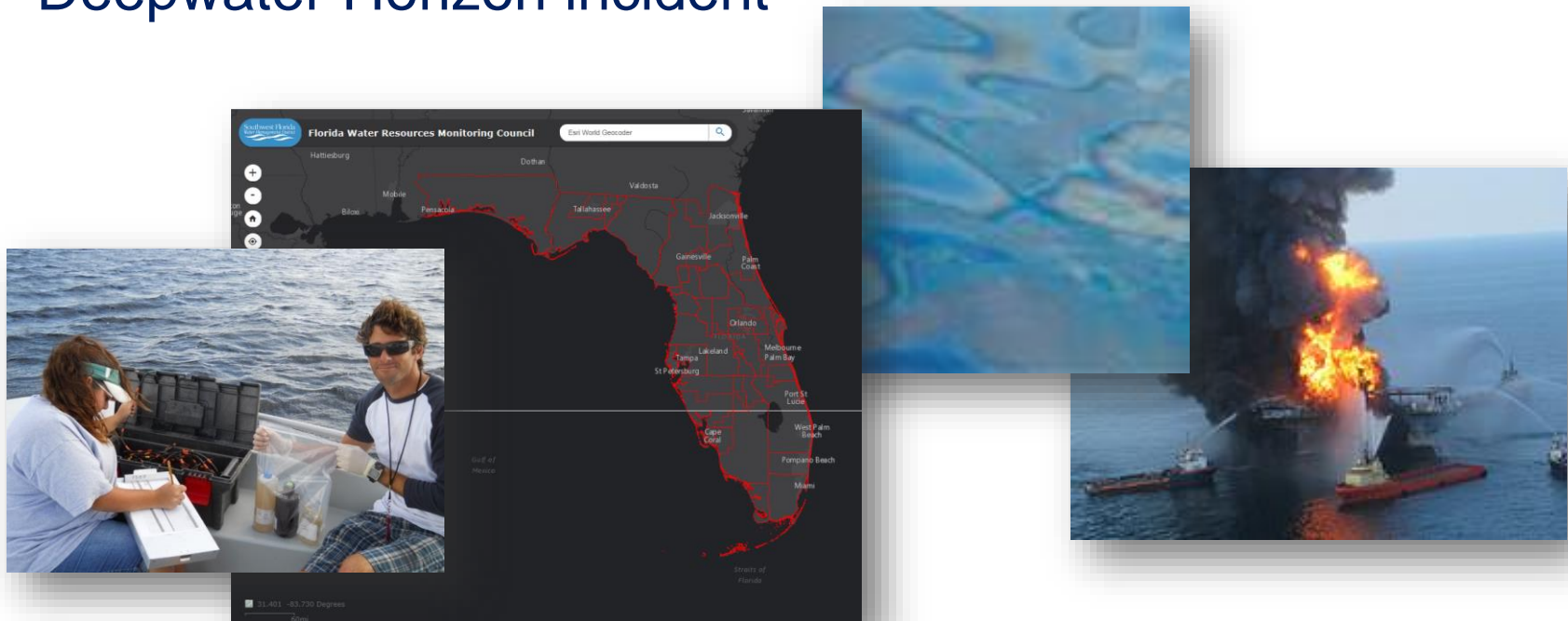
www.water-cat.org

- Powerful, interactive, web-enabled;
- Searchable metadata of “who, what, when, where, and why” of water resource monitoring in Florida;
- Contains metadata on monitoring
 - groundwater
 - freshwater
 - coastal waters
 - sediments
 - biological
- Ability to search by tabular or spatial interface.



Adverse Events Long-Term Monitoring Plan

- Adverse events long-term monitoring plan and interactive map
- *Lessons Learned Collection of SOPs* from the Deepwater Horizon incident





Continuous Monitoring (CM)

- Workgroup formed in 2015 to address CM issues:



- advantages/disadvantages;
- lack of standard operating procedures;
- appropriate deployment;
- maintenance/operations;
- data storage & management



Challenges

- Limited resources in both time and travel;
- May not always use the same terminology;
- Changes in administration & leadership;
- Keeping participants engaged;
- Competing priorities for Council.



Next Steps

- Planning meeting June 2016 to discuss SB 522 “Water Bill” coordination;
- Identify new leadership for Continuous Monitoring workgroup;
- Complete Adverse Events Response spreadsheet and interactive map;
- Secure contractor as Chair - late 2016;
- Continue Water-CAT contract until mid-2019



Contact Information



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